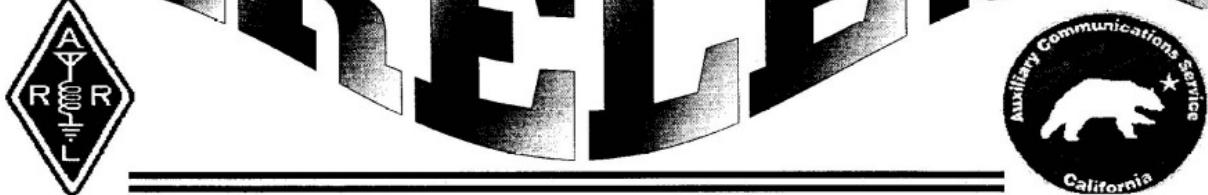


Volume 9, Edition 4

April

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



2005



## **VOMARC HAMFEST IS HERE APRIL 23!**

***JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN IN THE SUN (AND IN THE SKY?!)***

### **FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL**

The main topic of discussion this month is our annual hamfest on April 23rd. This our club's big event for the year. Many of you

have helped in the past and we hope you will continue. For those who haven't been involved, now is the time to get involved. We need help, especially in the kitchen.

Contact either me or Darrel if you can help. Better, make sure to attend this month's meeting at the Sonoma Fire station. The bulk of the meeting will be devoted to hamfest planning, but we will have a program presented by Ken, N6KM. He will demonstrate the new packet e-mail system called Winlink.

A big thank you to Alan, K6KLL, for allowing me to visit his radio program on KSVY to promote the hamfest. If you haven't already done so, tune in his program every Wednesday afternoon starting at 1:00 pm. Alan plays a lot of music for the 40's to the 60's. The frequency is 91.3 mhz.

I finally got back on PSK-31 and have been making a few QSO's a day. Some DX, but mainly stateside. It's amazing what 25 watts can do in this mode. I even joined Stan, NJ6E, and his weekly sked with Gerhard, K6XH, now living in Maryland. The ARRL is still doing battle with the BPL advocates, namely the FCC. The pilot BPL project at Irving,Tx was shut down and equipment removed. "I just got back from reviewing the site and can confirm that the BPL installation in Irving, Texas, has been removed and is no longer operating,"

McIntosh told ARRL this week. "Things are so quiet you can hear a pin drop. Definitely quite a change!" He said when the system was running, interference in its vicinity was 20 dB over S9 or stronger on all amateur bands from 40 through 6 meters. (ARRL letter) Some

good news, but there are systems running in other communities and the FCC seems determined to make it go no matter what. Join the ARRL if you are not a member and consider making a donation to help make this spectrum polluter go away.

Darrel and I made to the Livermore this month and made \$130 selling some things that were donated to the club. More importantly, we passed out 200 flyers about the hamfest. We got a lot of positive responses, so we are hoping for a good turn out.

We will need around 6 people for the Friday evening antenna set up. We plan on starting at 4:00pm. We will probably go with what we had last year, G5RV for HF (PSK-31 demo) and VHF for APRS. Like last year, I don't think we will be able to securely set up our trailer with the beam on it.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting. If you turn your radio on and you don't hear anything on the repeater, do something about it. Will be listening for you.

73, Jim

## **VOMRC HAMFEST PLANS**

The VOMARC Hamfest is here again, and it promises to be another day of fun, bargains and good food.

The VOMARC Hamfest started in 1979, with some of the club members coming up with the bright idea of having people

bring their goodies for sale to Sonoma, instead of making club members drive hours away to find radio treasures and bargains.

There has been more radio gear changing hands over the years than even our senior VOMARC members can remember. Much valuable electronics equipment and supplies have traveled from garage to garage each year, creating a tradition among VOMARC members of essentially "lending stuff" to each other with the exchange of a few dollars.

It may be that VOMARC members are just adrenalin junkies who seek the thrill of finding a treasure and getting it for a "steal", then bringing it back the next year, bargaining some more, and selling it for a windfall. The passage of another few years erases the object from the ham's memory so he can find the treasure again and repeat the whole process. Cheap thrills, I know, but where else can you find such unlimited entertainment for anything from a quarter to twenty dollars? The organizing has been going on for months, but the time is here to fill out the roster of VOMARC members and their various assignments. Call Darrel, WD6BOR, at 996-4494, as soon as you read this to make sure you get the spot you especially want for the hamfest.

The morning will start at 7 am with set-up and first shift for breakfast. We usually need four

to six people for an hour or two to get things set up and running, and Ed, W1EJ, will need six people to get the breakfast going in the kitchen.

Joan Brady, W6WXU, ably oversees the swap meet each year, checking vendors in and collecting ten dollars for each table space, without buying too many treasures herself. VOMARC will have a seller's table for members' gear-to-sell, at no cost for club members working on the hamfest.

Just like in the high-class joints, breakfast will be served, starting at eight. Ed Jacobson, W1EJ, will be organizing and supervising the kitchen crew, with eggs by the dozen cracked and scrambled, pancakes flipping in all directions, and hundreds of sausages sizzling in the pans. Ed can use six people per shift, with the first starting at 7:00 am and going to 9, and the second taking over then until 11. Ed is so good to his crew that they always get first chance tasting the sausages, but he does have a few spots still open on his roster, so call Darrel right away to get one of those coveted positions.

Joel, NN6J, is out VE liaison this year and will have the VE session starting registration at 9 and testing by 10.

Mike, WB6TMH, will be organizing the hidden transmitter, or "fox" hunt again this year.

Ashley, KG6LJP, will be taking care of the registration table again, greeting our visitors, handing out tickets for the door prizes and selling breakfast tickets.

Ken, N6KM, and Eileen, KG6QNT, have done a great job of lining up several emergency communications vans and crews for display to the attending hams as well as the general public. It has been several years since we've had any such display, and this year promises to be the best of all.

President Jim, K6UUW, will once again be running the club station, with any club member or visiting ham welcome to sit in and operate. He will be demonstrating amateur radio operations to the public and giving out information on becoming a licensed amateur radio operator.

Remember to give Darrel a call at 996-4494 and let him know how you can help with the hamfest.

### **EUREKA HAMFEST IN JUNE**

Put these days on your calendar, June 3,4, and 5, 2005. These are the dates for the Redwood Coast Amateur Radio Convention in Eureka. The event will be held at Humboldt county fairground in Ferndale. Looks like a full program; ARRL forum, guest speakers, seminars, VE testing, commercial dealers, DX station, swap meet, geo-caching, fox hunt, women's

program, and hourly door prizes each day. There will be a banquet on Saturday. For more information, contact Marci, KE6IAU, at 707-442-3866 or conven05@humboldt-arc.org.

### **VOMARC Minutes March 16, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM. There were 18 in attendance.

Minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurers report: There is approximately \$800 in the bank. For those who still have not paid their dues, they should have been paid by the end of February, so please pay them as soon as possible. Contact Eileen, KG6QNT.

Correspondence: There was only the SCRA newsletter.

ACS report: The new radio equipment was installed in the EOC last Friday. The radio on the left is a VHF rig. Then there is a 220 rig and the third radio is a Kenwood UHF rig that only has the public service frequencies. Please do not use this radio unless authorized. There is also an Alinco dual band radio and a new antenna. The old equipment is being kept as spares in case there is ever a need.

When the ICOM 718 was installed, Jim, K6UUW, checked into a net to get a radio check. The signal was good at distance.

Ken, N6KM, will compile an instruction manual for the equipment. When that is done, he will begin scheduling training sessions so all ACS members will be familiar with the equipment.

Mike, WB6TMH, reports that the Suit Sat project is perking along. There are weekly teleconferences regarding the project. The local team has been approved to print and test the circuit boards.

Web site: The VE session dates have been updated. If anyone sees anything on the web site that needs attention or updating, please let Jan Bush know.

The tube project is temporarily on hold. We have been given good feedback by all the Ebay purchasers. The tubes are being sold as tested, matched, and packages pairs and have the information with them. The 6V6's go for \$4.99 and up per pair plus \$5.00 postage. We have 24 cardboard file boxes full of tubes waiting to be tested, packaged, and sold.

The next VE sessions are April 19, 2005, at the fire station in Sonoma and is a by-appointment session. The regular session is April 24, 2005, at the Hamfest.

Old business: Ham Class is different this year. There were two students showed up for the first class who have never been

back. Each night, there is someone different at the class. As a result, the class is being given as a tutoring, elmering, and upgrade class.

A deletion from the even calendar is the Liberty Ride. The Liberty Ride will not be held this year.

There has been a call from the Rose Parade in Santa Rosa for volunteers to help with parade communication. This will be an ACS event. The date is May 21, 2005.

Jim, K6UUW, is still suggesting a camp out at Dillon Beach for the club. Anyone interested in bringing their radios and camping for the weekend, please contact Jim.

The first Sunday in April some club members need to go to the Livermore swap meet and hand out the Ham Fest Flyers. Anyone else wishing to hand out flyers to anyone they know may pull a copy off the web site. The Ham Fest is April 23, 2005.

There will be an EMCOM (Emergency Communications) display and presentation at the event. Solano County, the coastal region and the Red Cross have all been invited to bring their EMCOM equipment to put on display. Then there will be a presentation from 10:30AM to noon on the function of these emergency communication services. Since the hours of the ham fest are being extended slightly, we will

have hot dogs available for lunch as well as having our usual breakfast. We will try to start getting press releases in the paper on a weekly basis between now and the Ham Fest. Please contact Darrel, WD6BOR, to volunteer for your position at the ham fest.

Remember, many hands make light work. Volunteers are needed for set up, tear down, breakfast, lunch, club swap table, greeter, vendor spaces, talk in, parking, etc. The notice of the Ham Fest is in the QST that began arriving today. It is also in CQ.

Field day is June 25 and 26, 2005, and will be in Maxwell Park as it was last year. Anyone who has an antenna (or radio) they wish to try out is welcome to bring it to Field Day. There will be a few club members staying overnight. Parking is to be paid by each member as there will be very limited parking next to the picnic area.

The club will join the QSL bureau. Ken, N6KM, will do labels and the needed dollar amount will be sent to the ARRL 6th District call area QSL bureau. Since the club has participated in various DX contests, there may be several QSL cards waiting at the bureau. Speaking of QSL cards, when the equipment was installed in the EOC, the first contact made was with JA1SMM in Japan.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The program for the night was "What is a Windom?" It was presented by Stan Salek, NJ6E. All present learned a bit more about antenna performance and modeling.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Brady, W6WXU,  
Secretary

## THE VOMARC WIRELESS

### VOLUME 9 EDITION 4

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President  
Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN - Vice-Pres  
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Treasurer  
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair  
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - ACS  
Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister  
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

***Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.***

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:**  
<http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

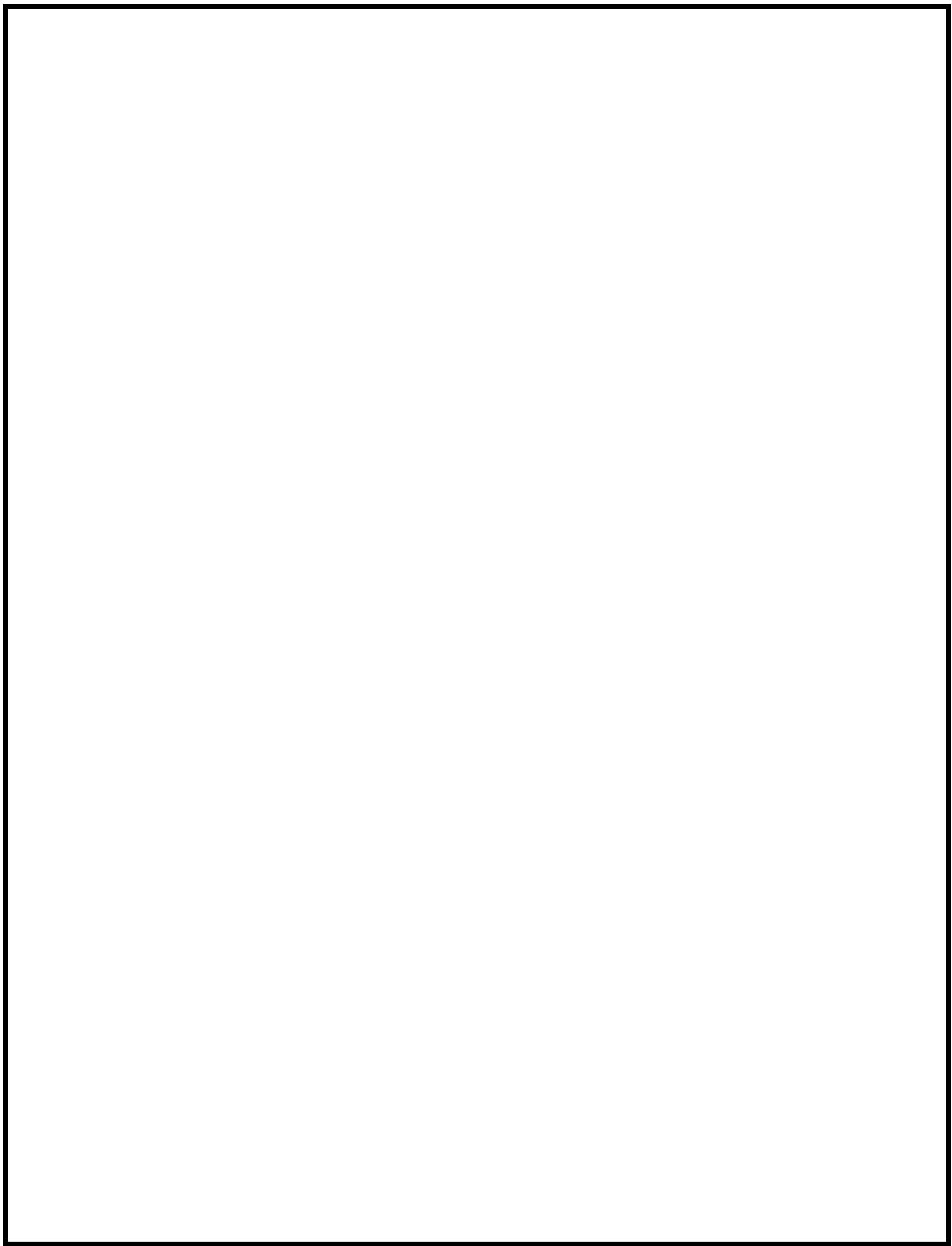
**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:  
wd6bor@vom.com

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476



**Valley of the Moon  
ARC  
1496 Nut Tree Lane  
Sonoma, CA 95476**

**NOTICE!!! THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE SONOMA  
FIRE STATION, 630 SECOND STREET WEST, SONOMA  
CU THERE!**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2005**    Membership Dues:    \$15/year individual;    \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

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VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at [Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com). Your check should be made payable to:

**VOMARC**